CLAIMS:

SUBA7

1. A method of embedding a watermark in an information signal, comprising the steps of:

- analyzing a given property of the information signal and determining an actual value of said property;
- associating different watermarks with distinct values of said property; and
- selecting the watermark associated with said actual value for embedding in the information signal.

2. A method as claimed in claim 1, in which the information signal is a sequence of video images, said analyzing step comprising analyzing a spatial or temporal distribution of luminance values, each distinct distribution of luminance values constituting a value of said property of the information signal.

3. A method as claimed in claim 1, in which the information signal is a sequence of audio signal segments, said analyzing step comprising analyzing a shape of the frequency spectrum of said audio segments, each distinct shape of the frequency spectrum constituting a value of said property of the information signal.

4. A method as claimed in claim 1, in which the embedded watermark is a combination of two or more basic watermark patterns constituting a set of basic watermark patterns being selected from different sets in dependence upon the actual value of the property of the information signal.

5. A method of detecting a watermark in an information signal, comprising the steps of:

- analyzing a given property of the information signal and determining an actual value of said property;
- associating different watermarks with distinct values of said property; and
- selecting and detecting the watermark associated with said actual value.

6. A method as claimed in claim 5, in which the information signal is a sequence of video images, said analyzing step comprising analyzing a spatial or temporal distribution of luminance values, each distinct distribution of luminance values constituting a value of said property of the information signal.

SUB A4

7. method as claimed in claim 5, in which the information signal is a sequence of audio signal segments, the method comprising the steps of calculating the frequency spectrum for each segment, each distinct shape of said frequency spectrum constituting a value of said property of the information signal.

8. method as claimed in claim 5, in which the embedded watermark is a combination of two or more basic watermark patterns constituting a set of basic watermark patterns being selected from different sets in dependence upon the actual value of the property of the information signal.

9. watermark embedder for embedding a watermark in an information signal, comprising:

- means (12) for analyzing a given property (P) of the information signal and determining an actual value of said property;
- means (14) for associating different watermarks with distinct values of said property; and
- means (13) for selecting the watermark associated with said actual value for embedding (11) in the information signal.

10. A watermark detector for detecting a watermark in an information signal, comprising:

- means (22) for analyzing a given property of the information signal and determining an actual value of said property;
- means (24) for associating different watermarks with distinct values of said property; and
- means for selecting (23) and detecting (21) the watermark associated with said actual value.

11. A watermark embedder as claimed in claim 9, further including a watermark detector as claimed in claim 10, and comprising means (15) for refraining from embedding the

SUB A47

selected watermark in response to said detector detecting said selected watermark in the information signal.